



ACUB Fact Sheet

Churchville Test Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground



Background

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is located north of Baltimore, Maryland. It is considered the DoD lead for all testing of manned and unmanned, wheeled and tracked vehicles. These test tracks are considered an irreplaceable national asset and of significant importance to the Army's present and future testing of vehicles. Aberdeen Test Center is a tenant activity at APG. The Churchville Test Area (CTA), part of the Aberdeen Test Center, is a valuable test track located north of APG that is subject to encroachment from incompatible land use. The track is located in a section of Harford County that was once an isolated agricultural area, but has been experiencing accelerated population growth and housing development. Most of the existing land adjacent to the test area is protected through state and county land preservation programs. A 163-acre parcel of land adjacent to the northern boundary of CTA remained vulnerable to potential residential land use. The development would have likely resulted in restrictions on CTA from dust and noise generated during night-time use.

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Harford County's Planning and Zoning Office is responsible for the management of the physical development and growth of Harford County. One of the major responsibilities of the Office is to ensure that agricultural and historical lands are preserved. The Harford County Planning and Zoning Office has over 12 years of experience in assisting owners with placing their agricultural land into preservation easements. The County easement program is recognized throughout the United States due to its use of innovative funding sources, payment options and a timely manner of settlement. For further information, call 410-638-3103 or visit <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/PlanningZoning/>.

Installation ACUB POC

Mr. Larry Birchfield, Environmental Officer,
Aberdeen Training Center, 410-278-4009.

Objective

The one-time, one-parcel ACUB project at Aberdeen Proving Ground's CTA proactively addressed the growing concern that encroachment could impact the future viability of the military test track. The Harford Land Trust, a local land trust organization, secured a continuous buffer around the CTA by purchasing an easement on the parcel. This is the first ACUB for a test center.

Partners

HARFORD LAND TRUST

The Harford Land Trust is Harford County's first and only county-wide land trust. The mission of the Harford Land Trust is to protect tracts of agricultural and natural landscapes that provide significant benefits to the citizens of Harford County, Maryland. For further information, call 410-836-2103 or visit <http://www.harfordlandtrust.org/>.